

Some Impressions

By A. J. CAMPBELL, R.A.O.U.

The Adelaide meetings of the R.A.O.U. were conspicuous for the number of mature-aged members who attended. What has become of the younger members?

The agenda paper was splendidly cleared up under the firm, but just, rulings of the President (Dr. J. A. Leach)—there was no unseemly rushing off to picnics to the neglect of important business.

The former Adelaide meetings were:—Foundation, 1901, President, Col. W. V. Legge; 1905, President, Sir Charles Ryan; 1909, President, Mr. A. J. Campbell; 1913, President, Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley; and "Majority Meeting," President, Dr. J. A. Leach.

Those visiting members who did not go into camp at Mt. Remarkable were hospitably entertained in town, notably by motor-car drives by Dr. A. M. Morgan, Dr. H. R. Pulleine, Mr. Edwin Ashby and Mr. N. McGilp. Capt. and Mrs. S. A. White, in addition to giving a pleasant garden party, led an outing into a romantic glen in the "Holiday Hills" of Adelaide.

Individual members visited the Zoological Gardens, and were received by the Director, Mr. A. C. Minchin. The birds observed in captivity, with ideal surroundings, were all in fine feather, notably a handsome pair of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos, which thrive admirably on sunflower seeds. Interest was attached to a pair of Eyre Peninsula Bell Magpies—dusky birds, probably *Strepera intermedia* (Sharpe)—the easterly representatives of *S. plumbea*. Mallee-Fowl were at home in a scrubby corner. Stone-Plovers had nested, but a Frogmouth (*Podargus*) had constructed a nest upon the ground at the foot of a tree, instead of in the branches thereof.

The South Australian Museum (Director, Mr. E. R. Waite) has steadily increased its valuable reference bird-skin collection. The institution is fortunate in obtaining the services of Dr. A. M. Morgan as honorary ornithologist. Assisted by Mr. J. Sutton, Dr. Morgan is cataloguing the skin collection under an approved card system.

The private collections of Capt. White, Mr. J. W. Mellor, and Mr. E. Ashby were also inspected, in part. One will not readily forget a sight of Mr. Ashby's Humming-Birds, which will, no doubt, eventually become the property of his State—212 species, long tails or short tails, tails square or tails forked all incomparably beautiful with iridescent colours that put the rainbow to shame—rose doree, or begonia rose crowns, amber yellow or amethyst or violet throats, peacock blue or mineral (yellow) green backs, shining chrysoprase, green tails, etc. One specimen for the splendour of its "fire" is said to rival that of a famous opal gem valued at many pounds sterling.